Washington Fellows for Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)

Public Affairs Section U.S. Embassy Old Mutual Building City Centre, Lilongwe



WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS; LOOKING FOR 500 LEADERS

President Obama engaging Young African Leaders in Johannesburg, South Africa

What is YALI?

- The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) is a Washington Fellowship program that will bring 500 participants annually (with the goal of expanding to 1000 participants) to the United States, starting in summer 2014.
- President Obama announced the new Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders exchange program during his town hall meeting in Johannesburg on June 29.

- A prestigious six-week summer leadership institute at a U.S. college or university campus with three thematic tracks: business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership, and public administration.
- A Presidential summit for all participants in Washington, DC
- Internships in the United States for approximately 100 of the 500 participants, awarded on a competitive basis, following the six-week leadership institute
- Follow-on activities for all participants on the continent after they return home, to engage with additional African youth as well as networking opportunities, internships, small grants and other activities to assist the young leaders to further their careers and maintain strong ties with the United States.

Requirements

- Applicants must be a citizen of and reside in a sub-Saharan African country. Persons holding U.S. citizenship or U.S. permanent residency are not eligible.
- Speak, read, and write proficiently in English.
- Be between 25-35 years of age at the time of application submission, although exceptional candidates younger than 25 will be considered.
- Have a proven record of leadership and accomplishment in public service, business or entrepreneurship, or civic engagement.
- Demonstrate a commitment to public or community service, volunteerism, or mentorship.
- Be committed to return to Africa and contribute their skills and talents to build and serve their communities.

Application Process and Criteria

- An online application system will be created, through which all applicants must apply. The online application will be available in early December 2013
- Applications should be from qualified candidates, regardless of their race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Candidates will be from the public, private and non-profit sectors in a broad range of fields.

What are the criteria for selection?

Washington Fellows should have:

- •A proven record of leadership and accomplishment in public service, business and entrepreneurship, or civic engagement;
- •A demonstrated commitment to public or community service, volunteerism, or mentorship;
- •The ability to work cooperatively in diverse groups and respect the opinions of others;

Strong social and communication skills;

- •Good academic performance, with preference given to applicants with some university education;
- An energetic, positive attitude;
- •An opportunity to benefit from a U.S.-funded program or exchange for the first time;
- •A demonstrated knowledge, interest, and professional experience in the track selected; and
- •A commitment to return to Africa and apply leadership skills and training to benefit the applicant's country, community, or school after they return home.

Institute Themes

Applicants will rank order their interest in the three leadership institute themes:

- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Civic Leadership
- Public Management.

Business and EntrepreneurshipInstitutes

- Business and Entrepreneurship Institutes will cater to the range of aspiring entrepreneurs who hope to take on leadership roles within the private sector or start their own business ventures on the continent.
- Business and Entrepreneurship Institutes will expose participants to business and entrepreneurial approaches in the United States, including those that are employed to address social issues.
- Business and Entrepreneurship Institutes will also build technical and leadership capacity in areas such as strategy, operations, supply chain management, business ethics, social entrepreneurship, microfinance, organizational development and management, marketing, innovation and technology, emerging markets and risk analysis, strategic business planning, and corporate social responsibility.

Civic Leadership Institutes

- Civic Leadership Institutes will be oriented to young Africans who are civically engaged and serving the public through non-governmental organizations, community based organizations, or volunteerism.
- Civic Leadership Institutes will expose participants to the meaning of civic leadership in the United States, while building technical and leadership capacity in areas such as citizenship, community building, economic development, grassroots activism, political organizing and leadership, and volunteerism.
- In order to define the content of the Institute and enhance the academic experience, programs may focus on a specific theme or sub-themes such as organizational management, strategic planning, fundraising, community relations and outreach, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, media, and coalition-building.

Public Management Institutes

- Public Management Institutes will be tailored to young Africans who work or aspire to work in all levels of government agencies, regional organizations such as the African Union, international organizations such as the United Nations, or other publicly-minded organizations or think tanks.
- Public Management Institutes will expose participants to U.S. public management models and best practices, while building technical and leadership capacity in areas such as transparency, procurement, public financial management, government tender processes, legislative/executive collaboration, citizen engagement and outreach, human resource management, program implementation, and policy formulation.

What it Entails



AN UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY TO ...

- Interact with President Obama at a Presidential Summit in Washington, D.C.;
- Participate in a 6-week leadership and mentoring program at a U.S. institution;
- Meet with U.S. government, civic, and business leaders;
- Access exceptional internship and apprenticeship opportunities;
- Expand your business or project through access to millions of dollars for small grant funding; and
- Join a continent-wide and global alumni network to help you seek innovative solutions to common challenges.

Additional Information

 Additional information about the Young African Leaders Fellowships may be found on the YALI website at http://youngafricanleaders.state.gov.

 Interested applicants may sign up on the website for information and periodic updates via e-mail.

Contact US

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Funerals continued

- Bereaved family and the deceased's employer collaborate in planning funeral arrangements.
- The employer's role mostly is to provide the coffin, transport, and food.

 Extended family and friends contribute towards other funeral expenses in cash or kind.





What should an American Officer do?

- Colleague: offer a word of condolence, a sympathy card, and a modest amount (\$5-20).
- Staff: For their funeral or immediate family members, you may be expected to help with coffin, transport and food.
- For their extended family member, a modest amount of money and approval of leave to enable them attend the funeral.



Cultural Sensitivities

- Yes answers can sometimes mean NO!
- Bwana Syndrome
- To look someone directly in the Eye is sometimes considered rude
- Social elites
- Seating arrangements at some social functions/ Men- Women









Views of Malawi











Getting to know us

Cultural Features

- Mua Mission
 Kungoni Cultural
 Center
- Kumbali Cultural Center
- The Summit Cultural Center
- The Eye Magazine (More Tourist Places)

Recommendations

- The best way to get to know Malawians is to visit them at their homes, churches, weddings and at funerals.
- Politics is openly discussed especially among older Malawians, it is always a good ice breaker. As long as you do not express your support toward
- The Kachere Series Books

http://www.sdnp.org.mw/ kachereseries/kachnew.htm

Warnings

- Malawians usually try to avoid confrontation so sometimes they will not openly disagree with you.
- Vendors at the open markets usually will quote you 2x the amount, to negotiate use ½ or 1.5 the amount
- The more a foreigner sticks with other foreigners the more distance Malawians become (integrate!!)

Thank you

